

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 059944

21

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TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 059944

E.O. 11652'GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, CGEN, GE, US

SUBJECT: US-GDR RELATIONS

REF STATE: 028732

1. SUMMARY: EUR/CE DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND GDR DCM DISCUSSED STATUS OF GDR REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO ESTABLISH TRADE OFFICE AND FTO OFFICES IN NEW YORK, RECENTLY CONCLUDED THIRD ROUND OF CONSULAR NEGOTIATIONS AND SITUATION REGARDING RESOLUTION OF HUMANITARIAN CASES ON US REPRESENTATION LIST. ELM WAS ALSO GIVEN FORMAL NOTE AUTHORIZING GDR EMBASSY TO OPERATE RADIO. HE WAS TOLD THAT DEPARTMENT EXPECTED RECIPROCITY AND THAT, WHILE NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 059944

LINKING RADIO WITH EMBASSY BERLIN'S REQUEST FOR TELETYPE

FACILITY, EXPECT THAT THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER DELAY IN
GRANTING OUR REQUEST. END SUMMARY.

2. GDR DCM ELM CALLED ON EUR/CE DEPUTY DIRECTOR HEICHLER
MARCH 10 AT FORMER'S REQUEST TO ASK WHAT STEPS THE
DEPARTMENT WOULD NOW TAKE TO ENABLE THE GDR TO ESTABLISH
A TRADE OFFICE AND FTO OFFICES IN NEW YORK. HEICHLER
REFERRED TO ASSISTNAT SECRETARY HARTMAN'S FEBRUARY 3
MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR SIEBER(REFTEL) AT WHICH TIME

SIEBER WAS TOLD THAT THE US AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO THE
OPENING OF THESE OFFICES BUT THAT THE ACTUAL IMPLEMEN-
TATION COULD TAKE PLACE ONLY AFTER AGREEMENT ON A

CONSULAR CONVENTION AND SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN
RESOLVING OUTSTANDING HUMANITARIAN CASES.

3. ELM EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT THIS STATEMENT, ARGUING
THAT THE GDR BELIEVED SUFFICIENT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE
IN BOTH THESE AREAS TO PERMIT THE GDR TO GO AHEAD WITH
ITS PLANS FOR THE NEW YORK OFFICES. HE WENT ON TO SAY
THAT THE GDR CONSIDERS THAT RELATIONS SHOULD BE
DEVELOPED IN WHATEVER AREAS POSSIBLE AND THAT THE PRO-
BLEMS CONFRONTING US IN OTHER AREAS COULD BE HANDLED
SEPARATELY. HEICHLER AND GDR DESK OFFICER RESPONDED

THAT THE US VIEWS BOTH HUMANITARIAN CASES AND A CONSULAR
AGREEMENT AS SERIOUS MATTERS AND THAT THE US, AS STATED
REPEATEDLY, WANTS TO MOVE STEP BY STEP IN DEVELOPING OUR
RELATIONS AND HENCE WISHES TO RESOLVE THESE PROBLEMS
BEFORE TURNING TO OTHER MATTERS. ELM WAS EVIDENTLY
DISAPPOINTED BY THE OUTCOME OF THIS DISCUSSION, BUT
SUGGESTED ANOTHER MEETING IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO DISCUSS
THE STATUE OF THE HUMANITARIAN CASES. DEPARTMENT
PROMISED TO PROVIDE GDR EMBASSY WITH INFORMATION ON HOW
TO APPLY FORMALLY FOR PERMISSION TO ESTABLISH NEW YORK

FACILITIES. HEICHLER REITERATED, HOWEVER THAT NO ACTION

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PAGE 03 STATE 059944

WOULD BE TAKEN ON SUCH REQUEST UNTIL THE US WAS
SATISFIED WITH PROGRESS ON THE CONSULAR AND HUMANITARIAN
ISSUES. HE EXPRESSED OUR DISAPPOINTMENT WITH SLOW
MOVEMENT ON FIRST LIST OF HUMANITARIAN CASES AND NOTED
CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN A NUMBER OF THESE.

4. AT OUTSET OF MEETING, HEICHLER GAVE ELM FORMAL NOTE
AUTHORIZING GDR

EMBASSY TO OPERATE RADIO-TELETYPE. HEICHLER STRESSED THAT DEPARTMENT EXPECTED RECIPROCAL APPROVAL FOR EMBASSY BERLIN RADIO. TURNING TO THE US REQUEST FOR A TELETYPE FACILITY, HEICHLER NOTED THAT THE US HAD NEVER LINKED THE GDR EMBASSY RADIO WITH THIS REQUEST. NEVERTHELESS, THE DEPARTMENT EXPECTS THAT THE GDR WILL NOW APPROVE OUR REQUEST FORTHWITH.

5. COMMENT: ELM CLEARLY TIMED HIS APPROACH TO COINCIDE WITH END OF THIRD ROUND OF CONSULAR NEGOTIATION. HE ARGUED THAT SINCE PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN THAT ROUND, WE NO LONGER HAD REASON TO DELAY ACTION ON GDR TRADE OFFICE AND FTO'S. HE PROFESSED SURPRISE AND DISAPPOINTMENT AT BEING REMINDED THAT BY PROGRESS ON CONSULAR CONVENTION WE UNDERSTOOD FULL AGREEMENT, RATHER THAN MERE RESOLUTION OF SEVERAL MORE TECHNICAL QUESTIONS. KISSINGER

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